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Mexico mission trips yield 500 professions

By Bobby Shurden, Pastor
Crestview Church, Petal

On May 30, 19 people left Hattiesburg at 5:30 a.m. for eight days of mission work in Mexico.

The team consisted of Bobby Shurden, pastor of Crestview Church, Petal; his wife Peggy, a registered nurse at Forrest General Hospital in Hattiesburg; daughter Rebekah, a student at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg; niece Heather Shurden of Florida;

Singuefield; Farra Meglich; and Teresa Royer.

Because of the scripture in James 1:27, the team traveled 1,000 miles by vans to Galeana, Nuevo Leon, where they took money, gifts, and other items to an orphanage with which Bobby and Peggy Shurden began working in September 1995.

The work with the orphanage has consisted of building five shower and bathroom facilities; purchasing two commercial stoves for the kitchen; paying for a basketball court-sized concrete area for the children; a hot water heater and all

the materials needed to plumb the entire orphanage for hot water; buying 40 bunk beds; along with money on each trip to purchase food, milk, and other essentials for the 50-plus orphans now residing there.

The director of the orphanage, Elida Lara and her husband Pedro who started the orphanage, have also begun over 50 mission churches throughout the mountains of Mexico from Galeana, south to Vera Cruz.

Each mission team taken by the

Shurdens works with the orphans as well as going into the mountains to take a free clinic, medicine, food, and other necessities to people who otherwise would never be able to get basic medical care and the food they so desperately need.

Whenever possible, doctors, nurses, and other specialized personnel make the trips too.

There is always a need for doctors and nurses who are willing to volunteer their skills

J.B. Ingram, pastor of West Drew Church, Drew; Tom Lott, a professor at William Carey College in Hattiesburg; Danny Davis, minister of music of Crestview in Petal; his brother David Davis of Pascagoula; Norman and Lil Bailey, members of Temple Church, Hattiesburg;

Charles and Ann Goleman, members of Crestview Church; and Alabamians George Mitchell; James and Mary Feltman; Kathy and Megan



CLOSE INSPECTION — A young Mexican boy gets his ears checked and cleaned by Peggy Shurden (right) of Crestview Church, Petal, Norman Bailey (center) of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, and Danny Davis of Crestview Church. The Mississippians were staffing a clinic during a May mission trip to Galeana, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. (BR special photo)

to help these people.

On the May-June 1997 trip, the team of 19 used over \$4,675 for medicine, food, soap, and many other useful things to serve the Mexican people.

They treated over 400 people in their clinics, gave food to at least 188 families, gave away 165 Bibles to new converts and others who had no Bible, gave out 106 pairs of reading glasses, and most importantly saw 90 people give their heart to Jesus in salvation.

Thanks to Pedro and Elida, these new converts will have a church in their village to

become a part of, and grow in their walk with the Lord.

Since September 1995, through Bobby Shurden Ministries, Inc., there have been over 500 people to accept Christ as their Savior, and over \$20,000 put into this work.

Every team member pays their way, and all donated money goes directly to help the Mexican people.

No donated money is used for travel related, administrative, or personal expenses.

For more information, contact Shurden at (601) 584-6822 or (601) 582-1559.



SUPPLIES FOR NEEDY — Residents of Galeana, Neuvo Leon in Mexico unload materials brought to the village by a mission team from Mississippi in May. (BR special photo)

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

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Christians found in Thai prison

Southern Baptist missionaries have discovered a fellowship of 70 Christians among 2,300 inmates in Samut Prakarn Central Prison in Thailand. "The amazing thing is that we don't have a team going into that prison," said International Mission Board missionary Jack Kinnison.

An inmate had written Kinnison to request 70 copies of the "Mailbox Club" Bible correspondence course. "He may have gotten our address from a copy of the correspondence course, or he may be a convert from another prison who transferred to this one," Kinnison said. "We hope this will be an entrance into this prison."

Looking back

10 years ago

Herschell Hobbs, pastor emeritus of First Church, Oklahoma City and a member of the Peace Committee, is satisfied with the committee's report. He's not happy with it, but he's satisfied. "Happy means you got everything you want," Hobbs says.

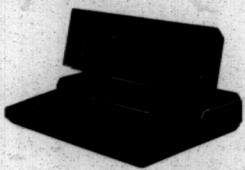
20 years ago

President Jimmy Carter holds a town meeting before 2,000 people in the new Yazoo City High School gymnasium and spends the night in the home of Baptist layman and retired industrialist Owen Cooper. Carter, also a Baptist layman, asks the crowd to "pray for me everyday."

50 years ago

P. I. Lipsey, Sr., dean of Mississippi Baptist ministers, dies July 16 at Baptist Hospital in Jackson. Lipsey, who pastored many churches in Mississippi and taught Bible at Mississippi College in Clinton, was also editor of "The Baptist Record" from 1912 to 1941.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Safe haven in the storms of life

Frighened, alone, and too disgraced to turn to her parents or friends, a young girl agonizes over her unplanned pregnancy. In the still-maturing mind of this child barely 16 years of age, the decision she will soon be forced to make seems to weigh as much as the world itself.

What to do? If she chooses to give birth, she has convinced herself that she can't live at home or even stay in town when it becomes obvious she is pregnant. What would people think?

Her Christian upbringing has convinced her that abortion is wrong, but what else can she do? Her boyfriend has abandoned her, she will be a bitter disappointment to her family, and she can't envision raising a child by herself.

Tears spill over the outside corners of her eyes and pool on the cold surgical table in the cold room of the cold clinic, as she awaits the start of the procedure that will terminate her pregnancy.

Torn between what she knows to be wrong and self-preservation, her sorrowful whisperings echo around the walls. "If only I had another choice. If only I had some place to go..."

For young women in this tragic bind, Mississippi Baptists are providing "some place to go."

The Shepherding Home program is only one of its kind in the Southern Baptist Convention. Administered by the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC), the program matches young women in crisis pregnancies with shepherding "parents" to guide them through this difficult period in their lives.

A young woman in a crisis pregnancy actually lives in the home of the shepherd-

ing parents, who are carefully selected for the program based on their commitment to be strong Christian mentors for the young woman while she is under their care.

"For many of us in the pro-life movement, our talk has become too easy. Our disapproval of abortion and our desire to eliminate this gruesome procedure is probably well-known, but is it time to acknowledge that our words must be lived out in action?" asks Paul G. Jones II, CAC executive director.

Jones believes Shepherding Homes is just the program to put action to our words and prove to a skeptical public that Baptists are serious about providing viable abortion alternatives.

CAC will provide training for qualified shepherding parents, and also develop background information to help assure a good relationship between the young woman and the shepherding parents.

"The shepherding parent or parents always have the final say as to who will come into their home.

The desire will always be to prayerfully match the pregnant woman and the shepherding home," Jones stressed.

CAC has developed a 13-minute video entitled, "Some Place to Go," thanks to a generous donation from Kearney and Ina Dossett, members of Woodland Hills Church in Jackson who felt led to become involved in the program.

The crisis pregnancy depicted in the video is the true story of a Mississippi Baptist teenager who found herself facing the most momentous decision of her young life. Thank God she made the right decision because a caring Christian couple got

**"WARM FUZZY BLANKETS?
YES, MA'AM. WE KEEP THEM
IN THE RELIGION SECTION."**



involved and provided her with "some place to go."

Jones is right when he says Mississippi Baptists have done as much or more than any other state in the Southern Baptist Convention to stem the scourge of abortion, but it's time to move to the next level.

With more than 1.2 million abortions in the country each year, there is much left to be done.

For information on the Shepherding Homes program, contact CAC at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

As you cross the bridge over the open sewage canal, the reality of poverty grips your heart. The smell will haunt you forever.

Barefoot children, many naked, run down the dusty streets. Young boys play with kites made from torn plastic shopping bags and sticks.

Mothers carry their food for the day in their arms, as they rush home to prepare their meager meals.

Such is the life in Lomas de Funval, Venezuela. Located in Valencia, a city of 1.5 million people, Lomas de Funval is a new barrio that has no water or sewer facilities.

Your heart breaks to see such conditions, yet in the midst of the poverty, people accept Christ in a glorious way.

Walking door-to-door down the dusty streets, you discover people anxious to hear the gospel — people who are looking for a ray of hope in a life of despair.

Working with Mississippi Baptist Partnership missions has changed my life.

It was my pleasure to join an evangelistic team of Mississippi Baptists who came from across the state to volunteer in Venezuela on March 7-17, 1997.

As part of the New Works 2000 project in Venezuela, we were requested to take part in

an evangelistic outreach through our Mississippi partnership.

There, working side by side with our foreign missionaries and the Venezuelan nationals, we witnessed God do a marvelous work.

At least 655 people were recorded as accepting the Lord into their hearts during our ten-day trip.

I have never visited a country more hungry for the pure Word of God and a people more willing to accept Christ as their Savior.

It was a blessing to have one of our own foreign missionaries as my partner and translator for the field-side work.

I appreciate the tireless

efforts of Richard Beal in reaching people for the Lord.

We walked door-to-door mornings and afternoons and preached in two services each night in two different mission sites.

We worked in five mission sites all together, preached in 13 worship services, and saw 185 people accept the Lord.

We were fortunate to be in areas where the nationals had prepared the way for us to minister. They went out of their way to be cooperative.

It is hard to imagine how we can live in our carpeted homes while families live in dirt floor houses made of scrap wood and tin.

How can we eat our scrump-

tious meals while children eat from bowls of food filled with flies?

How can we justify worship in luxury while the world around us is dying and going to hell?

We need to realize that Jesus was serious when he spoke the Great Commission.

Being a volunteer missionary has changed my life forever. I am proud to be a Mississippi Baptist, but as a pastor and a Christian, I realize that God needs more than our money.

He needs more than studies on missions and our rhetoric. He needs each of us to get involved.

He needs our time, even if it's just a few days a year. Excuses are not needed.

Anyone who ever gets an opportunity to participate in a Partnership Missions effort must do it.

God will bless the volunteer far more than you can ever imagine. The eternal destiny of countless people hangs in the balance.

We walked away from thousands, maybe millions, of people who are lost in Venezuela.

I hope I will get another opportunity through volunteer missions to reach out with the Gospel to those who are in need of Christ.

GUEST OPINION:

Get involved in volunteer missions

By Ted Bowlin, pastor
Carmel Church, Monticello



Mississippians to head SBC assembly campaign

NASHVILLE — Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, and Henry Holman, chairman of the board of Jackson-based Jitney Jungle Stores of America, Inc., have been named regional co-chairs for the capital campaign to raise funds for Southern Baptists' two national conference centers at Glorieta, N.M., and Ridgecrest, N.C.

Holman and Pollard are enlisting other key leaders to staff the organization for the region, one of 15 making up the campaign.

Nationally, former Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., is chairing the campaign cabinet.

"I am delighted that these two leaders have accepted this significant role in positioning Glorieta and Ridgecrest for ministry into

the 21st century," said Mike Arrington, campaign coordinator and executive director for corporate affairs at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn.

"That they would add these roles to their busy schedule indicates the importance Glorieta and Ridgecrest continue to play in the spiritual enrichment of our denomination," he said.

In addition to improving the facilities at Glorieta and Ridgecrest, Arrington said, plans are in process to provide more flexible conference schedules to meet the needs of conferees and

to provide scholarships so that everyone, regardless of economic status, will be able to participate in events at the conference centers.

With official solicitation slated to begin later this summer, a pledge of \$1 million already has been received from an anonymous donor, Arrington said.

Campaign officials hope to raise as much as \$67 million through the campaign.

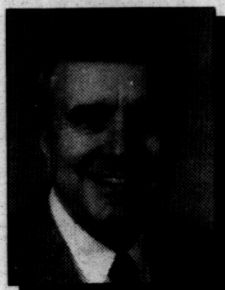
"Throughout their history, Glorieta and Ridgecrest have been places where people have been able to pull away from their busy schedules and draw

closer to God," Arrington said.

"Thousands of pastors, missionaries, church staff members, and laypersons can point back to a moment at Glorieta or Ridgecrest where they heard and responded to a call from the Lord," Arrington said.

The two assemblies have proven popular with Mississippi Baptists through the years.

In 1997, both conference centers are celebrating milestones as Glorieta observes its 45th anniversary and Ridgecrest, its 90th anniversary.



Pollard



Holman



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

Record

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Beacon making progress on rebuilding

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

What the world often sees as a devastating blow, God sees as a magnificent opportunity.

That's the message being broadcast loud and clear from Beacon Mission in Yazoo City, the victim of an unsolved 1996 arson that gutted one of a pair of the mission's East 15th Street mobile chapels provided by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

"It was a blessing in disguise. It was the catalyst for churches in Warren and Yazoo Counties to get involved in this ministry by



WORSHIPPING TOGETHER — Charles Thomas (foreground), pastor of Beacon Mission, Yazoo City, shares in a lighter moment during worship services with members of Northlake Church, Grapevine, Texas. The Texans were in Yazoo City in late June to assist in the rebuilding of Beacon Church, a victim of arson last year. (Photo by Vernon Sikes; used by permission of "The Yazoo Herald")

helping rebuild Beacon," said Howard Smith of Vicksburg, director of missions for both Warren and Yazoo Associations.

"A number of people have personally identified with the work. Lives are being changed in many ways," he explained.

That's no small feat, considering Beacon is a 50-member mission to the local African-American community led by African-American pastor Charles Thomas — and the churches of Warren and Yazoo Associations are composed of virtually all white members.

Not everyone is on board, Smith said, but he is grateful that God has changed hearts and bridged so many of the racial and social barriers that previously impeded this kind of ministry in the Mississippi Delta.

One person on board in a big way is Chester Grisham, member of First Church, Yazoo City, and project manager for Mississippi Chemical Corp. in Yazoo City.

First Church, Yazoo City, is serving as the "encouraging church" for Beacon, after First Church and Southside Church, Yazoo City, co-sponsored the Beacon start-up in 1992.

Grisham, who is supervising several domestic and international construction projects for Mississippi Chemical, determined early on that he would make time in his busy schedule to also supervise the Beacon construction as a volunteer.

"It's pretty clear to me what the Lord expects of us. There is a great need in this community for the races to work together, and I like being involved in that. It's the right thing to do," he said.

To accomplish that goal, the rebuilding leaders have insisted that Beacon members and local volunteers step up to do the bulk of the construction, but several out-of-town groups have also contributed a large amount of labor for the project.

A total of 44 members of Northlake Church in Grapevine, Texas, paid their way to Yazoo City in late June to frame the new building and conduct a Vacation Bible School in the mission's lone undamaged mobile chapel.

Six children accepted Christ dur-

ing the Vacation Bible School week, pastor Thomas said.

Thomas stressed that the permanence of the new facility will have a huge impact on the surrounding community.

"People are suspicious of churches set up in 'trailers' (the mobile chapels). They've told me they don't believe we're going to stay around."

"This permanent building proves to people that we're putting down roots in the community. People watch us closely, and this new building is creating stability in their minds," he said.

Grisham estimated the \$120,000-\$180,000 project to rebuild Beacon would cost at least \$250,000 without the help of volunteers.

Smith said approximately \$86,000 of the needed funds have been raised so far, but work is proceeding on the belief that God will finish through his people what he has started at Beacon.

For more information, contact Smith at 3040-B Indiana Ave., Vicksburg, MS 39180. Telephone: (601) 638-2142.

Thomas can be contacted at P.O. Box 1635, Yazoo City, MS 39194. Telephone: (601) 746-8551.



HEAVY LIFTING — Members of Northlake Church in Grapevine, Texas, install plywood underlayment for the roof of Beacon Church, Yazoo City. The church's facilities were destroyed by arson in 1996. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Helping homosexuals focus of conference

WILMORE, Ky. (BP) — After he quieted the standing-room-only crowd, emcee Alan Chambers told the audience of some changes in the day's schedule. Looking around, he added, "Well, I guess in this audience we have 800 changes."

Hearty laughter and raucous applause ensued. While homosexuals "coming out of the closet" rates national media coverage, the North American Conference of Exodus International publicized a different view — people can come out of homosexuality.

Meeting the week of July 6 at Asbury College and Seminary, Wilmore, Ky., the coalition of ministries gathered under the banner, "Let The Whole World Know."

Various speakers also called on the church to reach out to those trapped in homosexual lifestyles and proclaim a message of hope.

"It's wrong," preaches easy," said Michael Riley, pastor of Church of the Open Door, San Rafael, Calif., and a graduate of

Golden Gate Seminary. "But that's first base. Romans 3:23 says all have sinned. God has accepted all of us. We're all welcome here. Jesus accepted me, I accept you, let's go to work on our problems."

Bob Davies, Exodus' executive director, said the 765 who registered represented the largest gathering of former homosexu-

als and lesbians in history. It could have been larger but they ran out of space, he said.

"That is a tremendous statement of the power of Jesus Christ to change lives," he said. "It's also a tremendous witness to the world, because they say we don't exist."

Not everyone attending was an ex-homosexual, since the conference attracted pastors, family and friends of former, and current homosexuals. The director said it also drew a few struggling to overcome the problem.

Attending were a diverse group of men and women from 50 states and 20 countries who mingled freely, laughing, and sharing stories of such triumphs as new babies and expanding ministries.

The conference book room provided evidence of the many ways former homosexuals and lesbians seek to lead others out of this lifestyle. Besides the availability of such books as "Pursuing Sexual Wholeness," "Desires in Conflict" and

"Coming Out of Homosexuality," organizations filled dozens of tables with literature.

One of the week's most moving testimonies came from Pat Kulp and Ann Phillips, members of Sweet Hope Baptist Chapel, Gates, N.C.

After Kulp gently witnessed to Phillips at their workplace for several years, Phillips accepted Christ as her Savior and left a 20-year lesbian relationship.

A year ago they formed Kindred Spirits to conduct workshops for churches on the roots of homosexuality and how to be agents of reconciliation.

"Healing should be taking place within the church body," said Phillips, who was born again in 1994. "But it's hard to place people in a church where they can be loved. We try to educate churches so people will be treated with compassion."

"Once you understand you'll have compassion," said Kulp, a Christian since 1971. "There are many books out that can help people understand

why others are prone to homosexuality. Pastors and church leaders should be taking the lead in learning about it."

Other Southern Baptists at the conference agreed.

"Too often we forget it's a sin like any other sin," said Nancy Brown of Georgetown, Texas, a member of Lakewood Church.

"You don't often hear preachers telling their congregations, 'We have these terrible liars here,'" she said.

She and her husband, Don, founded LifeGuard Ministries after his decade-long struggle with the sin.

Noting that a meeting with 75 pastors last January failed to generate any follow-up inquiries, he said, "We talk to a lot of churches but they tend to think they don't have the problem. Or it's too in-depth. They don't want to deal with an ongoing thing."

More information about Exodus can be obtained by phoning (206) 784-7799; fax, (206) 784-7872.

Prayer for homosexual ministry leads Southern Baptist couple to new work

WILMORE, Ky. (BP) — John Paulk still winces when he recalls the anti-homosexual protesters along the parade path of the 1985 "Gay Pride" march in Columbus, Ohio.

Dressed in high heels, white gown, and bleached blonde hair, Paulk was riding in a red Corvette convertible driven by his male lover.

As he approached a bridge, chanting opponents held signs like "God Hates Homosexuals" and "Leviticus 3:5-6" — as if he was reading Leviticus in his spare time, he joked. But the banner that really angered him read, "Love the Sinner, Not the Sin."

He thought, "I hate you. Who would want to follow a God like that? I wonder how many people have felt the same thing. Yet, inside this shell of a person was someone who was lonely, depressed, and despondent, wondering if this was all life would amount to."

That experience, and the Southern Baptist couple who led him to salvation two years later, convinced Paulk that homosexuals will never be converted by debates over their behavior.

The couple who witnessed to him used to bring Christian materials to the photocopy store where he worked. At first he scoffed, "Oh, yeah, Bible thumpers." But they spent the next year befriending him, asking frequently about his life and inviting him to dinner.

After learning he was ill for an extended period of time, they found out where he lived

and showed up with groceries and a freshly baked casserole.

"I can't tell you what that meant to me," said Paulk, now married and the father of a seven-month-old boy. "Nobody had ever given to me without wanting anything in return."

Since they had never mentioned his openly homosexual appearance, he initially thought they were ignorant or stupid. Later he learned Tom and Linda (who don't want their last names used) had been praying God would send homosexuals their way so they could minister to them.

Touched by their gifts during his illness, he agreed to let Tom return to his apartment one day to talk about Christ. His friend spoke in simple terms, Paulk said, comparing Jesus to someone picking up heavy luggage and taking it on a train for you.

"He asked if I died, would I go to heaven?" John recalled. "I didn't know and it scared me. It drove me to investigate. But I said, 'God can't love me, I'm gay.' Tom said, 'I've known that all along.'"

"He gave me the 'Four Spiritual Laws' and said God could love me as a gay, that being lost didn't depend on being gay but rejecting Christ."

He was also touched by Hebrews 5:9: "He (Christ) became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him" (NIV). Suddenly Paulk thought how he wanted to please God with his life.

Soon after, his friends asked him to house-sit during their

vacation — another significant step, since they didn't know him well but trusted him to take care of their property.

"I tossed and turned for a week," he said of staying there, "and became so convicted I went home and knelt next to my bed and said, 'God, I will give my life to you and turn away from homosexuality and never do it again.'"

Not only did the couple lead him to Christ, they disciplined him and taught him about daily Bible reading and devotions. When his first exposure to church left him too nervous to return, they held Sunday morning services at home just for him.

This kind of compassion is how Christians can reach homosexuals, many of whom are dealing with the consequences of considerable hurt, pain, and sin, Paulk said.

"The best thing people can do is love them and treat them with respect," said Paulk, who lives in Portland, Ore., and is public relations director for the Exodus coalition of ex-homosexual ministries.

"The best way to deal with it is not hit them with the gospel. Build a relationship with them like you would any sinner in need of Jesus Christ. Surround them with loving care and relationships."

"We can't convince anybody what they're doing is leading to physical and spiritual destruction. It's the same with anybody making a decision for Christ. They have to want it for themselves."



Disney generates opinions

I am in support of the boycott. However, shouldn't the cable companies be a target too? Monthly payments show support of the filth even if the "specific" channels are not being watched.

Heather Arnold
Clinton

You know, if we spent more time doing God's will, rather than entertaining ourselves, we would not be having this Disney Productions boycott debate.

Wendell L. Ladner
West Point

Boycott opponents imply that supporters are anti-love, witnessing. The message must include these and a call to sin no more. Without the latter, the radical homosexual agenda Disney promotes is condoned.

Barney Smith, Jr.
Columbia

To boycott Disney is wrong and immoral. I do not support

homosexuality, but just because Disney hires a few gays does not mean they accept this way of life.

George Matthews
Lexington

Great editorials July 11, 1997. I favor the boycott.

Carolyn Jones
Greenwood

Disney is good and right to look beyond our faults to see our needs. Jesus teaches us to judge not, forgive, and pray for even homosexuals unconditionally as he did for our sins on the cross.

Tanda Matthews
Lexington

What's your opinion on the Disney boycott? To appear in this space, sum up your opinion in 25 words or less, sign it, and mail it to "The Baptist Record," P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please include your address and telephone number for verification purposes.



Mississippians selected for NOBTS posts

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — During their July 15 special called meeting, trustees and seminary administrators released the name of a professor elected June 3, Charles Jeffrey Terrell, following notification of his employer.

Terrell will be assistant professor of pastoral counseling, occupying the new Baptist Community Ministries Chair of Pastoral Care and Counseling, established in December 1996 with a gift of \$1 million from Baptist Community Ministries of New Orleans.

A licensed psychologist, Terrell most recently has been staff psychologist at the Federal Correctional Institute in Yazoo City since February.

In 1994-95 he was chief resident, specializing in pain man-

agement, at Veteran's Affairs Medical Center, Biloxi.

From 1991-94 he was a counselor and then coordinator for the Behavioral Medicine Clinic of the University of Southern Mississippi's Health Services Center in Hattiesburg.

He has made numerous presentations for meetings of the Mississippi and Louisiana Psychological associations and written articles for the "Journal of Social Behavior and Personality," the "Journal of Cognitive Psychology" and the "Journal of Constructivist Psychology."

Originally from Atlanta, Terrell, 33, completed the bachelor of arts degree at Samford University, Birmingham in 1985; the master of divinity degree at New Orleans

Seminary, in 1989; and two graduate degrees in counseling psychology at the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg — the master of science in 1992 and the doctor of philosophy in 1995.

Terrell's wife, the former DeAnne Jones of Birmingham, will be the seminary's director of student counseling and director of testing.

She completed the bachelor of arts degree in psychology at Samford; the master of science degree in community counseling at Georgia State University; and a doctor of philosophy degree in psychology at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Trustees also elected Steve Warner Lemke as provost during the July 15 meeting. He will

assume the position Aug. 1.

Lemke has been chairman of the philosophy of religion department and associate professor in philosophy of religion at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, since 1990.

Originally from Ruston, La., Lemke received the bachelor of arts degree cum laude in history from Louisiana Tech in 1972, with a minor in journalism.

He completed three graduate degrees at Southwestern Seminary — the master of divinity in 1976; the master of arts in religious education in 1978; and the doctor of philosophy in 1985 with a major in philosophy of religion and minors in ethics and preaching.

He currently is completing work on a master of arts in philosophy at Texas A & M University.

CBF votes to endorse chaplains

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP and ABP) — The General Assembly of the six-year-old Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) voted to endorse chaplains, and partially restored funding for the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) in its June 26-28 meeting in Louisville, Ky.

The group also approved a \$14,325,852 budget for 1997-98, and appointed four new career missionaries along with seven short-term missionaries.

CBF is an organization of moderate Baptists formed in protest of Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) leadership.

Registration for the meeting, the seventh general assembly and first in Louisville, totaled 3,565. The largest crowd during any of the three-day sessions was estimated at 4,000.

Although the vote to

endorse chaplains, declaring CBF an "ecclesiastical authority" and "religious endorsing body," would seem to further indicate CBF is a convention/denomination, officials insisted it is not.

"We are a partnering network," said Daniel Vestal, new CBF chief executive officer.

The relationship between BWA and CBF was highlighted when members of the General Assembly forced an amendment to the proposed 1997-98 budget, adding \$20,000 whereas the proposed budget did not include funding for BWA.

Although Vestal told news media the decision to eliminate BWA funding was "strictly a budget decision," observers at the meeting said there was a feeling among CBF staff that BWA snubs CBF, pos-

sibly for fear of reprisals by the larger SBC.

In adjusting geographical representation on the Coordinating Council, the General Assembly approved a plan which keeps one representative from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas even though those states would have lost all representation under regular guidelines that mandate minimum contributions.

CBF claims about 1,500 churches have contributed, although it was announced about 1,300 is a three-year average. Less than half that number actually include CBF in their budget, officials have said, and a contributing church could mean simply passing on the gifts as directed by a single church member.

Next year's CBF general assembly is scheduled June 25-27 in Houston.

Youth Night July 25-26

"Challenging Today's Youth for Christ," is the theme of the 1997 Mississippi Baptist Youth Night this weekend at the Mississippi Coliseum at the fairgrounds in Jackson.

The title Youth Night has become somewhat inaccurate, since there are two identical sessions, one on Friday evening, July 25, at 7 p.m.; the other on Saturday morning, July 26, at 10 a.m.

Both sessions will feature Dave Busby, a full-time evan-

gelist from Edina, Minn., and Al Denson, a Christian recording artist from Dallas.

Young people are encouraged to bring Bibles. This event will include both a clear exposition of the claims of Jesus Christ and an opportunity for young people to respond to those claims.

Counselor training will take place at 6:15 p.m. on Friday and 9:15 a.m. on Saturday.

Admission to Youth Night is free, but a love offering will be received.



Denson



Busby

'Vessels' release slated



Ken Anderson of Anderson Productions climbs the Adventure Course tower at Central Hills Assembly near Kosciusko recently to shoot video footage for a coming issue of "Vessels," the video magazine of Mississippi Baptists. With Anderson are an unidentified camper and counselor. Central Hills is Mississippi Baptists' Royal Ambassadors camp. Camping sessions continue at Central Hills through the end of the summer. "Vessels" will include a segment about Central Hills in the August edition. (Photo by Carl M. White)

MSC volunteers needed

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Who will go for us to do home missions? is a question which Mission Service Corps (MSC) volunteers are answering.

MSC is the North American Mission Board (NAMB) program of adult volunteers who pay their own expenses and serve full time for one or two years in missions in the United States or Canada.

According to Bob Mills, NAMB's adult volunteer mobilization associate, many opportunities are available for Bible study leaders, workers with senior adults and people who want to be involved in personal evangelism and visitation.

"MSC usually has more than 1,000 available positions for ministry," he said. "Some require a seminary degree, but most do not. Some are on church staffs. Others may be on college campuses, in state offices or in totally unique places."

There are a few requirements to becoming an MSC volunteer.

The person must be committed to Jesus Christ, be an active member of a Southern Baptist church, be willing to share his or her talents, be in good health to do full-time work, maintain financial resources to provide for one or two years of service and have health insurance.

MSC volunteers also provide the avenue for other volunteers to come into their area of service.

"Most short-term volunteer activities in any given area are coordinated and implemented by MSCs," Mills said.

"MSCs are providing the infrastructure for more work to be done.

"There is a place of service for everyone," Mills encouraged. "We have opportunities for anyone who feels called to take that step of faith."

FBC, Holly Springs to host women's meet

First Church, Holly Springs is sponsoring an area-wide women's conference Aug. 8-9 called "Time Out for Women," according to Jane W. Callicutt of the Time Out steering committee.

The conference begins at the church at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 8, and ends with a luncheon and fashion show on Saturday, Aug. 9.



Maddox

Registration is \$15 (\$18 after Aug. 1). Child care is provided for \$2 per child. Please bring a sack lunch for each child on Saturday.

This year's theme is "Rainbows and Reflections," and features keynote speakers Mary Glenn Peeples of Birmingham and Bernandine Cantrell of Atlanta.



Peeples

Other speakers include

Margaret Webb of Byhalia; Pat Patterson of Germantown, Tenn.; Tiny Tutor of Pontotoc; Faye Sanders of Slayden; Roseland Allen of Tupelo; Sarah Maddox of Brentwood, Tenn.; Doris Stanfill of Oxford; sisters Julene Stromberg and Ramona Schmidtkech of Holly Springs; and Bea Green, Angela Hendrix Lindsey, Lois Swanee,



Cantrell

and Linda Jones, all of Holly Springs. Sharon Williams of Memphis will bring special music.

"Time Out for Women" was begun in 1995 by Rose Fitch, Sheran Gooch, Carol Taylor, and Jane Callicutt.

Originally planned for 50 women, over 100 attended in 1995. The 1996 conference drew over 300.

To register, send your name, address, and church home along with the registration fee to First Baptist Church, P. O. Box 428, Holly Springs, MS 38635. For more information call (601) 252-2627.

'Rich in Christ' to mark end of summer slump

By David Michel, Director
MBCB Stewardship Dept.

Do you believe Mississippi Baptists could give a \$10 million offering in one Sunday?

Mark your calendar.

Special offering envelopes and a one-page utilization guide are available from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Stewardship Department at no cost to churches.

For more information, call Laura Marler in the Stewardship Department at (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Terry Long, pastor at North Winona Church, Winona, has already ordered a supply of envelopes.

"I was not planning to do anything about a giving promotion until next year, but when I received the 'Rich In Christ' sample packet, I changed my mind. The theme is so positive, and it offers people an excellent way to respond to the blessings of God," he said.

Isom Hill, pastor of Lynn Ray Road Church, Petal, admitted his secretary saw the 'Rich In Christ' materials and told him: "There's a lot of good stuff in here."

Their church has scheduled a month-long stewardship emphasis in August.

Ken West is Director of Missions for Washington Association in Greenville.

"Summertime can be tough on churches," he said, "and the 'Rich In Christ' emphasis is timed right, low-keyed, and centers on helping churches."

West has a large supply of materials on hand for churches in his area.

"Rich In Christ" suggests

that churches enlist three personal testimonies, employ a responsive reading, and include a 5-minute drama in their worship service.

Church financial leaders are encouraged to look at increasing commitments to mission support through the Cooperative Program and

Associational ministries.

"Rich in Christ" sounds a spiritual note as it resonates with II Corinthians 8:9:

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty, might become rich."



Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

LifeAnswers

My son and his girlfriend are planning their future together, but her mother wants her to date other young men. How can I avoid bitterness over the implication that my son is not good enough?

Don't assume you know her motives. There may be reasons for her actions other than your son's suitability, but you won't know until you talk with her. She could be concerned that too much closeness between these two young people might lead to compromises in their Christianity. Possibly it is her daughter's decision-making ability that troubles her. Talk with her over lunch or in some other low-stress setting to find out what is really on her mind. As for your bitterness, take a step back and look at your own life. Are there painful memories from your past that are reflected in this situation? Are you dealing with unresolved hurts? Focus on people like Joseph (Gen. 37-50) and David (1 Sam. 16-1 Kings 2), who were forced to deal with difficult life situations where it seemed God had abandoned them. Lastly, this situation presents an ideal opening to sit down with your son and discuss the realities of life and relationships.

On another note, a friend recently passed along this story. It's good for a smile and a life lesson.

TOGO — Missionary Patsy Eitelman writes: "We have been trying to find or compose songs in the local style of singing for the Tem radio program, so we asked a Tem congregation near Barilo to record some of their church songs for us. I was listening to their tape in the car with Toubaye. He must have noticed the puzzled expression on my face. He said the refrain they were singing was an expression used by old men which translates as, 'hold up my underwear.' Toubaye told me the origin of the expression: 'A man strips down to his shorts or underwear when doing hard work or battle, and it's when one is in the heat of the physical struggle that his underwear is likely to fall off and leave him in a embarrassing situation. So a 'hold up my underwear' day is an extremely difficult day... when you don't know which way to turn. I think that we all have one of those 'hold up my underwear' days now and then."

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Follow
Christ's
Example

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes

He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich."

- 2 Cor. 8:9

Almost every Sunday, churches receive close to \$5 million in offerings. Why not double that?

"Rich In Christ" is a statewide effort to involve churches in a back-to-school offering which will mark the official end of the "summer slump" in giving. August 24th is the recommended date.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 24, 1997

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

CORRECTIONS AND UPDATES TO SUMMER MISSIONARIES' LIST

In the last issue of Housetops we published a listing of everyone who has ever served as a summer missionary from Mississippi. Due to an unfortunate production error, the last line of the list was removed and, as a result, the following names were deleted: Kristin Tompkins, John Tramel, Toni Tucker, Hope Weaver, Jeff Wells, Renee Wheeler, Albert White, Matt Wilburn, Wendy Wilkerson, and Andy Winn. We sincerely regret this happened and we appreciate your understanding in this matter.

With the addition of the above names, that completes the list of names that we received in the Office of Communication. We realize that some names could have been omitted altogether. If this happened to you or anyone you know, please direct your calls to Weaver McCracken in the Department of Student Work, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



Camp Garaywa Staff Reunion

**Make your plans now to
attend!**

WMU Church and Associational Leadership Training Camp Garaywa Clinton

DATE	TIME	COST
Monday, July 28	6:30-9 p.m.	
Tuesday, July 29	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. 6:30-9 p.m.	Lunch served at noon (\$5)
Wednesday, July 30	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Lunch served at noon (\$5)
Thursday, July 31	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. 6:30-9 p.m.	Lunch served at noon (\$5)
Friday & Saturday, September 5-6	5 p.m. Friday concludes with lunch	\$23 (includes 3 meals) Bring your own linens & towels

Registration Form—Associational/Church Leadership Training

September 5-6, 1997 – Camp Garaywa

Starting Friday at 5 p.m., concluding with lunch Saturday

Cost: \$23 per person

Name _____ Daytime Phone No. _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Church Name _____ Association _____

Amount enclosed: \$23 x no. of persons _____ = \$ _____ (total)

Make checks payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Send to: WMU – A.L.T./C.L.T., P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Camp Garaywa Staff Reunion

Celebrating 50 years!

September 5-6, 1997

Registration Form – Camp Garaywa

Starting Friday at 4 p.m., concluding with lunch Saturday

Registration: \$23 per person

Name _____ Formerly _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____ Daytime Phone No. _____
I served as _____ in the summer(s) of _____

Amount enclosed: \$23 x no. of persons _____ = \$ _____ (total)

Make checks payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Send to: WMU – Staff Reunion, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Rich In Christ Sunday • August 24, 1997

• **Rich In Christ** is a two-Sunday celebration and special offering designed to boost the church's budget receipts and to give the congregation confidence for renewing mission support commitments.

• All Mississippi Baptist churches are encouraged to set aside August 24 as a day of extraordinary giving. Set a goal to triple the average Sunday's offering. Together we can have a \$10,000,000 offering statewide. Also, lead the church to

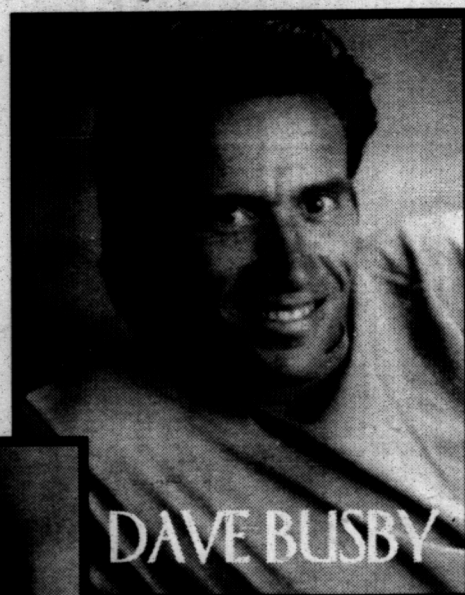
renew its commitment to Cooperative Program and associational missions giving. Seek to increase percentages or dollar amounts allocated in next year's budget for mission support.

• Back-to-school time offers an excellent opportunity for church members to catch up from the slump in summer attendance and giving. August is early enough in the budget-planning cycle for next year to make a positive impact on mission support.

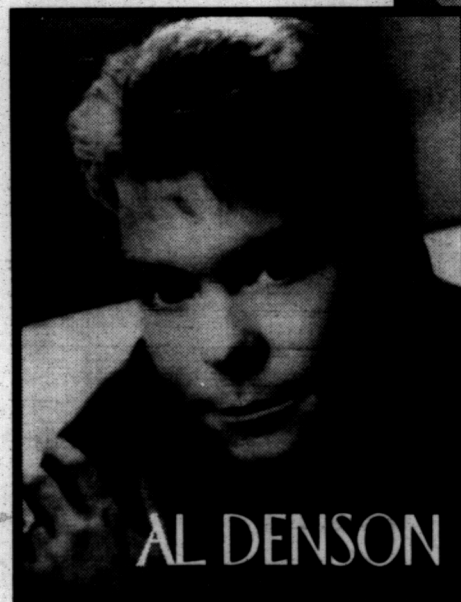
• Order inspirational materials and envelopes from the Stewardship Department at (800) 748-1651 at no cost. Encourage your church to participate.

Follow
Christ's
Example

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST YOUTH NIGHT '97



DAVE BUSBY



AL DENSON

*Challenging
Today's
Youth for
Christ*

Same program —
choose one to attend

July 25, 1997 • 7 p.m.

July 26, 1997 • 10 a.m.

MISSISSIPPI
FAIRGROUNDS
COLISEUM

Garaywa Lodge Ground-Breaking September 6, 1997

If you would like to be present at this important event in the history of Camp Garaywa, make your reservation for lunch by calling the WMU office at 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 in Jackson.

**Hand In Hand
Garaywa Expands**

Guidelines

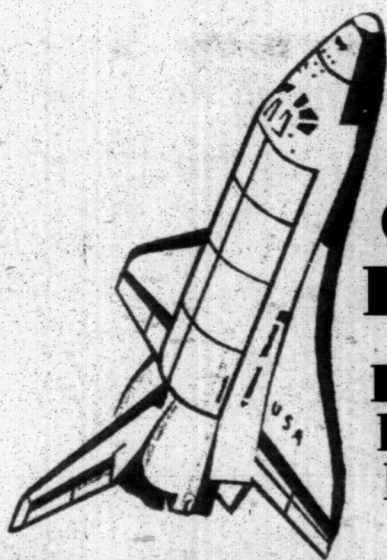
- Encourage your youth to bring their unsaved and inactive friends
- Encourage each person to bring a Bible
- Appropriate dress is requested
- No alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, or illegal drugs will be permitted
- No radios or taping equipment will be permitted
- Counselor training at 6:15 p.m. on Friday and 9:15 a.m. on Saturday

1997
Basic and Advanced
Secretary Certification
Seminars
Camp Garaywa, Clinton

BASIC – August 19-21, 1997
 Led by Glenda Suggs

ADVANCED – August 19-21, 1997
 Led by Jane Barrett

For more information, contact Anne
 Martin at 1-800-748-1651 or in
 Jackson at 968-3800, ext. 3905



Follow
Christ's
Example:
Boldly Go Where
Few Have Gone
Before!

Sunday School Leadership Conference
September 12-13, 1997
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Conference begins Friday at 5 p.m.
and ends Saturday at noon.

Come and explore what it truly means to follow
 Christ's example. This is a great conference for
 new and experienced workers. Guides for the
 journey will be provided for workers of all age
 groups. No childcare provided.

For housing information or reservations
contact Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
at 601-452-7261.

Sponsored by the
Sunday School Department, MBCB



Mark your
calendars! You don't want
to forget any of these exciting WMU
events!

- July 28-31 Church and Associational Leadership
 Training, Camp Garaywa
 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on Tue/Wed/Thur and
 6:30-9 p.m. on Mon/Tue/Thur
- Sept. 5-6 Church and Associational Leadership
 Training, Camp Garaywa
 5 p.m. Friday-12:30 p.m. Saturday
- Sept. 6 Ground-breaking ceremony for Garaywa
 Lodge, 11 a.m.
- Oct. 10-11 Women On Mission Retreat, Camp Lake
 Stephens at Oxford
 4 p.m. Friday-noon Saturday

Call the WMU office for more information at
 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 in the Jackson area.

Town and Country
Church Music Conferences

...are designed for music
 leadership in smaller
 membership churches:
 bivocational/volunteer
 ministers of music, choir members, and
 keyboard personnel.

July 1997

Area 7

17-18 Woodville BC
 6:30 p.m., Thurs.-noon, Fri.

18-19 Shady Grove BC, Hazlehurst
 6:30 p.m. Fri.-noon, Sat.

Area 8

24-25 FBC, Collins
 6:30 p.m., Thurs.-noon, Fri.

25-26 Calvary BC, Silver Creek
 6:30 p.m. Fri.-noon, Sat.

August 1997

Area 9

7-8 Juniper Grove BC, Poplarville
 6:30 p.m. Thurs.-noon, Fri.

8-9 Wade BC, Pascagoula
 6:30 p.m. Fri.-noon, Sat.

Call the Church Music Department for more information or registration
forms at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson at 968-3800.

Pray this day for...

July 25-August 7, 1997

Prayer Ministry Office • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

Chinese Christians have a widespread motto: "Little prayer, little power; no prayer, no power."

Ask the Lord to demonstrate His pre-eminence above the "gods" of the peoples of Bangladesh. Pray for a spiritual awakening among the 15 million Hindus of Bangladesh. Pray for revival in existing churches and for new believers to become mature disciples who share their faith.

Day of Prayer for World Peace (Christian Action Emphasis). Pray that a developing prayer network for Malaysia will become a channel of light for the people of Malaysia. Pray for 1,000 faithful intercessors who will pray daily for Malaysia.

For Church WMU Leadership Training; Camp Garaywa; 6:30 pm; sponsored by the WMU. Royal Ambassador/Challenger Camp; July 28; Central Hills Retreat; sponsored by the Brotherhood.

Thank you for praying for missionary Alicia Braswell in Brazil for the last few months as threatened premature labor put her to bed in April. Alicia gave birth to a healthy baby boy on June 24. She and her husband, Larry, ask you to join them in giving thanks to God for Lucas. Growing Churches III Through Discipleship; July 31-August 2. A conference for training all Discipleship Training leaders; Gulfshore Assembly; sponsored by Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

For Church WMU Leadership Training; Camp Garaywa; 9:30 am-2:30 pm and 6:30-9 pm; sponsored by the WMU.

There are about 360,000 East Indians living in the Fijian Islands. Pray for the Lord to open new doors of witness among this unreached population who follow the beliefs and rituals of Hinduism.

Church WMU Leadership Training; Camp Garaywa; 9:30 am-2:30 pm; sponsored by the WMU

Pray for rain in northern Thailand. A month into rainy season, very little rain has fallen. The community is very concerned about their rice crops and their water supply.

For Church WMU Leadership Training; Camp Garaywa; 9:30-2:30 pm and 6:30-9 p.m.; sponsored by the WMU

For Town & Country Church Music Conference 7-8; Juniper Grove BC, Poplarville; 6:30 pm, 7th-noon, 8th; sponsored by Church Music Dept.

For Youth Night; Mississippi Coliseum, Jackson; 7-9 pm; sponsored by Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Town & Country Church Music Conference; Calvary BC, Silver Creek; 6:30 pm, 25th-noon, 26th; sponsored by Church Music Dept. A Teens Weekend; Camp Garaywa; 3 pm, 26th-noon, 27th; sponsored by WMU.

For African American Leadership Development Conference; August 1-3; Gulfshore Assembly; 5 pm, 1st-noon, 3rd; sponsored by Missions Extension and Associational Administration.

For Youth night (identical program as on 25th); Mississippi Coliseum, Jackson, 10 am-noon; sponsored by Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

For Centrifuge IV; Gulfshore Assembly; sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

11-82 MISS ARIEL AUSTIN MASSEY
Bolanos 141, 1407 Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA
Parents: Gregor & Karen, Music Promotion

12-84 MR. WHITNEY W. KLIESCH
Ecole Baptiste de Theologie, B.P. 4860, Lome, TOGO
Parents: Kenneth & Ruth, Theological Education

18-77 MR. JOHN-RICHARD CARTER
611 Cox Ave., Hattiesburg, MS 39402
Parent: Nedra H. Carter (Emeritus); SERVED IN SOUTH AMERICA

18-78 MISS SUMMERS DUNAWAY
WCC, PO Box 1205, Hattiesburg, MS 39401
Parents: Philip & Lena, Theological Education; SERVE IN BRAZIL

18-82 MISS APRIL SMITH
Casilla 223, 8300 Neuguen, ARGENTINA
Parents: Steve & Vidonia, General Evangelism

22-87 MR KYLE JONES
4, bis, Grande Rue, 54420 Saulxures-les-Nancy, FRANCE
Parents: Mike & Pam, General Evangelism

25-79 MR. RYAN KYZAR
Apartado 4035-1000, San Jose, COSTA RICA
Parents: Russell & Melinda, Music Promotion

25-86 MISS STEPHANIE SMITH
Casilla 223, 8300 Nueguen, ARGENTINA
Parents: Steve and Vidonia, General Evangelism

27-83 MISS AMY K. LEE
52-31 Matsumidai, Ikoma-shi, 630-02, JAPAN
Parents: Henry & Linda, General Evangelism

Fall Festival of Marriage

September 19-21, 1997

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Jackson
(formerly Harvey Hotel)

601/969-5100
\$59 per night

Registration fee: \$90 per couple
Deposit: \$50 per couple
Walk in: \$110 per couple

Keynoters: Bob and Yvonne Turnbull
Music and Drama: Jeff and Debby McElroy

Call 1-800-254-2022

Sponsored by the Department of
Discipleship and Family Ministry,
MBCB

HOUSE TOPS

MISSING THE MARK

Editor:

I would like to take this means to say thank you to Gene Triggs, Madison, for your letter to the editor, "Atmosphere of Worship" (July 10 issue). It expressed exactly how I feel about true worship.

Too many of our churches today are missing the mark by not paying divine honor to God. The way I see it, too much entertainment and performing goes on in so many of our churches today.

I never have approved of applauding in a church service and I never will. It has crept into the church of which I am a member in recent years but I do not approve of it.

My hope and prayer is that we all come to the realization that the church's first responsibility is a spiritual one, not an entertaining one. 1 John 4:6 — "We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error."

Rosalie M. Green
Lucedale

DON'T UNDERSTAND

Editor:

In regard to Gene Triggs' letter entitled "Atmosphere of Worship", I'm afraid I don't understand all the objection to good Christian entertainment. While it is true there are solemn parts of a service (such as The Lord's Supper) where I might not care for applause, I feel the atmosphere for worship, mostly, is in the heart of the believer, and may take many forms of expression. Godly entertainment helps in

pointing one to God, and lifting the spirits. I don't see anything wrong with applauding (or paying) someone who is gifted (by God) to lead in this form of worship.

I wish my little church were so gifted with Godly entertainers that all my unsaved neighbors would come out to be entertained. Some would probably hear the truth and be saved!

Darrel D. Smith
Philadelphia

CHILDREN AND DISNEY

Editor:

I strongly agree to boycott Disney. I also love the sinner, but how do you take small children, willingly to a place where sin is taking place by the thousands, sin that appears acceptable, and explain to little children why the same sex is holding hands, kissing, cuddling, and necking? Then tell them God created man and woman to bear children.

We are in this world, not of it. We are to go to the lost and be a witness, but to subject little children, willingly, to the unnatural to me is a sin as well.

God entrusted us to teach our children to love and sin not, and yet to take them into Disney is like taking to show them sin is acceptable, by the thousands.

I always thought (Pastor Jim) Henry from First Church, Orlando, was a great man of God and I sat in his church many times; however, from reading his statement printed in ("The Baptist Record"), I see now all he was concerned about was numbers. He was afraid of losing some of his

10,000 members for many of them work at Disney and we know when you lose members you lose dollars and then you lose power.

By the way, I have a beloved relative dying from AIDS (a homosexual), and I love him more than Jim Henry loves power and that's a lot of love, isn't it?

My feelings and thoughts are written from my soul — thanks be to God.

Linda Fagone
Jackson

TROUBLESOME QUESTIONS

Editor:

In your June 19, 1997 editorial you said the ITF committee hired a consulting firm connected to gambling interests. Is this normal operating procedures for our associational committees? Baptists should not be supporting gambling directly or indirectly.

You also mentioned the important committee comprised solely of highly educated members. I am sure there were highly educated women available. Why were no women placed on this committee?

Holding closed meetings as you reported by the ITF committee is a sure-fire way to cause suspicion. Meetings of all committees should be open to the public and the press.

Thank you for reporting these offenses. You are doing your job.

More troublesome questions arise from the June 19 letter to the editor from Don Windham.

Are employees of the association overpaid? I feel Windham had accurate information concerning this.

Is the SBC Executive Committee guilty of appointing their own family members to important positions? Is nepotism a common practice in the Baptist Association?

I do not know personally what the true facts are. Neither does the rank and file of Southern Baptists. We give our money and trust the "powers that be" to use it wisely. I believe this trust will be diminished if questions like these are left unanswered.

Gambling, discrimination, secret meetings, taking money not earned, and nepotism are not Christ-like.

Haskel Stringer
Bay Springs

APOLOGY FORTHCOMING?

Editor:

"Prohibition, all over again?"

The attorney general of the state of Mississippi has been successful in his efforts to make the tobacco industry take some responsibility for the damage that their products have caused.

I concur. I do not choose to bear the tax burden for treating

the thousands who suffer from nicotine addiction.

I have long opposed the entire liquor industry and the leeches who profit from it, including government taxation.

A direct descendent of the Coors family spoke in our church recently.

He itemized the suicides, murders, mayhem, and grief experienced by four generations in his Denver brewery. He has been converted and has left the family business.

The liquor industry is next, and it couldn't happen to a more deserving bunch.

What could not be outlawed by a constitutional amendment may be waylaid by a lawsuit that forces them to pay for the disasters that their products create.

If alcoholism is being touted as a disease, which it isn't, is not gambling addiction equally devastating? Should not the gambling promoters be put in line for recovery payments?

Finally, if people who have suffered from so-called "second-hand smoke" are successful in their effort to recover damages, will children who grew up in an "alcohol hell" of a family be able to sue the booze barons for the emotional damage they suffered?

If we are going to apologize for the slavery of a past century, is our amoral government, that has been thriving off of "sin taxes," going to apologize?

Probably not.

J.L. Hawkins
Greenwell Springs, La.

POEM AUTHOR FOUND

Editor:

The poem, "Walk Little Slower, Daddy," (LifeAnswers, June 12 issue) was written by me and published in "The Baptist Record" in June 1989. I am sending the original... to be published in one of my poem books, "Treasury of Wildflowers."

I was happy to see it published again, though sorry that I wasn't given credit. Also, there were a few words changed:

"Please walk a little slower,
daddy,
Said our little boy one day.
"If you go and leave me
I may not find the way."

"Please make your steps shorter,
So I may keep in stride,
I want my friends to see me
Walking by your side."

"Walk a little straighter, daddy,
For I want the world to see
That my daddy is the greatest,
Just like I want to be."

"Sometimes when I'm in trouble
And don't know what to do,
I want everyone to see that
I'm walking just like you."

Velma A. Windham
Taylorsville



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST STUDENT UNION SUMMER MISSIONARY TESTIMONIES



NONA WALKER LUKE

Oklahoma - 1990, Delta State University

Through the support of Mississippi Baptist Student Union, I was given the opportunity to serve at the Tulsa Baptist Women's Shelter for women and children in crisis situations. Working in the inner-city was an eye-opening experience for a

Mississippi rural girl. That summer God showed me how he could turn my weakness of fear into his confidence and strength; how he could use me to relate to and minister to people who had experienced very difficult times; and how challenging and fulfilling missions can be.

That summer mission experience, as well as my involvement with the Delta State University BSU, provided ministry opportunities that strengthened my passion for serving God. I continued mission work after graduation by serving as a US-2 missionary to the St. Louis, MO, area in multihousing ministry. I married a BSU Director, Tim Luke, and continue to encourage Missouri college students to serve in local ministry projects, as well as summer missions. I praise God for the foundation that was laid through Mississippi BSU.



The Road to Everlasting Life



God intends for all his children to live with him forever, but the road to everlasting life is blocked. To find that road you must:

Admit that you are a sinner.
There is none righteous, not even one. (Rom. 3:10)

Accept God's love for you.
God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)

Acknowledge Christ as Lord.
If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. (Rom. 10:9)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Mississippi Baptist Church for spiritual guidance.

VBS DATES

Gunter Road, Florence: July 27; 5:30-8 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30-8 p.m.; Gene Jordan, pastor.

Grandview, Pearl: July 27; 5:30-8 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7-9 p.m.; supper will be served Mon.-Thurs. at 6:30 p.m.; classes for adults, youth, and children; Wade Chappell, pastor.

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JUST FOR THE RECORD

Mount Pisgah Church, Carrollton, will celebrate its sesquicentennial on July 27. The celebration will begin at 10 a.m. with guest speakers, homecoming message and a covered dish lunch. Gary Tanner is pastor.

Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City, will celebrate its 105th anniversary on Aug. 10 at 10 a.m. Activities include noon

meal in fellowship hall and singing in the afternoon. Howard Collier is pastor.

Northcrest Church, Meridian, will have a First Place Commitment Rally on Aug. 5 at 7 p.m. First Place is a Christian weight loss program with a spiritual and biblical emphasis. "The people who have gone through the program have been a great testi-



Fredonia Church, New Albany, held ground breaking services on June 29 for a Family Life building at a cost of \$230,000. Building committee (pictured, from left) are Vicki Rowland, Jill Weeden, Joyce Grisham, and Gerald Weeden, chairman. Not pictured are Miles Hall and J. W. McMillen. Joe Herndon is pastor.

HOMECOMINGS

Second, Calhoun City: July 27; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall; Edward Pendegrast, Derma, guest speaker; Jeff Howell, pastor.

County Line, Carthage: July 27; 11 a.m., noon meal; and afternoon singing; Martin Williams, Forest, guest speaker; Mark Pilgrim, pastor.

Mt. Zion (Simpson): July 27; 10:30 a.m.; Ben Carlisle, former pastor, guest speaker; lunch at noon; afternoon service with Danny Berry preaching; Joel Eavenson, pastor.

Shiloh, Oxford: Aug. 3; 10:30 a.m.; dinner on grounds at 11:30 a.m.; 12:30 p.m. singing; Gray Allison, Memphis, guest speaker; Walk by Faith, guest singers; Ronnie Mayes, interim pastor.

Valley Park (Sharkey-Issaquena): Aug. 3; services, 11 a.m., noon meal, and 6 p.m.;

Steve Lammons, Columbus, guest speaker; Dennis Salley, pastor.

Juniper Grove (Pearl River): Aug. 10; David Raddin, Yazoo City, former pastor, guest speaker; Ray Spence, pastor.

Center Ridge, Yazoo City: Aug. 10; 10 a.m.; noon meal; 1 p.m. singing; Howard Collier, pastor.

D'Lo Church (Simpson): Aug. 17; 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; Steve White, Gulfshore, Ala., evangelist; Bob Harris, D'Lo Church, music; Robert Sones, pastor.

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SALES AND RENTALS

mony to our church family as to what can be accomplished with a Christian weight loss program," said Malcolm Lewis, pastor. For more information call Carol Moore (601) 485-6951 (work) or 483-8506. (home).

Ashland Church, Ashland, will celebrate its 125th anniversary on July 27. Activities include Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; and pot luck lunch.

Pass Road Church, Gulfport, has concluded three weeks of the presentation, "Heaven's Gates & Hell's Flames." There were 982 decisions for salvation and 458 decisions for rededication.

Heaven's Gates & Hell's Flames will return to Pass Road Church, Nov. 23. For more information or reservations call (601) 863-1697. Edgar Jackson is pastor.

The Stone Brothers will be in concert at Parkway Church, Natchez, Aug. 4, at 7 p.m. No tickets required.

Walnut Grove Church, Leake Association, exceeded its goal of \$800 for the offering to support the Baptist Children's Village by giving a final total of \$833.35. The children at Vacation Bible School gave a total of \$130.25 to this cause to put the church over its goal. John H. Pace Jr. is pastor.

STAFF CHANGES

Robert E. Calvert, pastor of Ashland Church, Ashland, retired on June 8. He and his wife Stuart have moved to Alabama. Their address is 63 Horseshoe Creek Rd., Boaz, AL 35957.

Ray Kirk, a native of luka, has returned to Mississippi, as pastor of Calvary Church, Belmont, after 14 years of serving churches in Tennessee, Illinois, and North Carolina.

Main Street Church, Goodman, has called Ralph G. Hunt as pastor effective June 8.

Hunt received his education from New Orleans Seminary and is pursuing his bachelor of theology degree through Covington Theological Seminary, Rossville, Ga.

Charles Wallace, pastor of First Church, Summit, for 12 1/2 years, has become the associate pastor of music, worship, and missions at Bethany Place Church, Richmond, Va.

Harmony Church, Crystal Springs, has called Brad Wyatt as minister of students effective June 29. A native of Savannah, Tenn., Wyatt received his education at the University of Memphis and Mid-America Seminary. His previous place of service was Mountain Terrace Church, Memphis.

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REVIVAL DATES

Corinth, Magee: July 27-Aug. 1; Sunday, Hosana! singing in afternoon; Mon.-Fri., 7 a.m., choir practice, 7 p.m., and worship, 7:30 p.m.; Jerry Sullivan, Raleigh, evangelist; Rick Holifield, Magee, music; Billy Guest, interim pastor.

Old Hebron (Covington-Jeff Davis): July 27-Aug. 1; Sunday, 11 a.m. and dinner to follow; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Clay Chancellor, evangelist; David Henderson, music; Randy Gardner, pastor.

Tyro (Northwest): July 27-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. each evening; Oscar and Otha Geeslin will conduct services; Gary Newton, pastor.

McAdams (Attala): July 27-30; services, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Malcolm Byrd, McCool, evangelist; Louis Burghard, McAdams Church, music; James Young, pastor.

Midway, Newton: July 27-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; David Rives, Newton, evangelist; Jerry Nance, Louisville, music; Wayne Miley, pastor.

Anding, Bentonia: July 27-30; Sunday, 10:30 a.m., dinner on the grounds, and 1:15 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Robert Toney, Gloster, evangelist; His Praise Quartet, Brookhaven,

music; Joe K. Hill, pastor.

Strong River, Pinola: July 27-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Steve Walker, Pinola, music; Tim George, pastor, speaker.

Holly Springs (Marion): July 27-Aug. 1; Sunday, 11 a.m., covered dish at noon, and 7 p.m. service; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; David Sellers, evangelist; Tim and Tasha Leverett, music; William E. James, pastor.

Mt. Zion (Simpson): July 28-Aug. 1; 7:30 p.m. nightly; Charles Burnham, evangelist; Joel Eavenson, pastor.

Macedonia (Lauderdale): Aug. 3-6; services, 7 p.m.; Bill Webb, Meridian, evangelist; Sherry Devorss, Macedonia Church, music; Jason Gross, pastor.

New Haven (Choctaw): Aug. 3-7; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Terrell Stringer, Louisville, evangelist; Walter Simpson, New Haven Church, music; Bobby Parish, pastor.

Mt. Moriah, Weir: Aug. 3-7; 7 p.m. nightly; Marion (Bubba) Dees Jr., Columbus, evangelist; Benny and Gina Weeks, Weir, music; Dale Nowell, pastor.

Valley Park (Sharkey-Issaquena): Aug. 3-6; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Steve Lammons, Columbus, evangelist; Dennis Salley, pastor.

Sarepta, Meadville: Aug. 4-8; 7 p.m.; G. P. Bufkin, speaker, Webb Armstrong, pastor.

Concord, Yazoo City: Aug. 3-8; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds, and 1:15 p.m. service; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Ken

Anderson, Clinton, evangelist; Henry Kirk, Concord Church, music; James Garner, pastor.

Harmony, Crystal Springs: Aug. 3-6; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, Little Rock, evangelist; Hal Thompson,

Crystal Springs, music; Clark Stewart, pastor.

Clear Springs (Yalobusha): Aug. 10-15; 7:30 p.m.; Jerry Smith, pastor of Hope-well Church, Yalobusha Association, evangelist; Lonnie Waller, pastor.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Mississippi College (MC) has appointed James (Jim) C. Turcotte as dean of Enrollment Services. He joined the Mississippi College staff as director of admissions in 1994 after serving as a consultant and vice president for University Advancement at Dallas Baptist University, Dallas, Texas.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Darlene Jezek is presently serving as interpreter for the deaf at Park Place Church, Brandon. She has also served at First Church, Clinton, and First Church, Gulfport. Jezek, a 1986 graduate of Mississippi College, served as a BSU summer missionary in 1982 with the deaf in Virginia and 1984 in Nagoya, Japan. Jezek is the daughter of Carlie Hill, consultant in the Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. For more information about the ministry for the deaf call Jezek at (601) 371-3987 or 939-6282 (church).



Michael Fondren Sr. was licensed to preach by Borden Springs Church, Caledonia, on May 11. He is available for supply or interim work by calling (601) 356-4453. Pictured (from left) are Bobby Cobb, pastor, and Fondren.

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Joseph Evans Faulk recently received a doctorate in theology at Andersonville Baptist Seminary, Camilla, Ga. He is serving as pastor of Temple Church, Grenada. Pictured with Faulk is Jimmy Hayes.

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EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Demonstrating love

I Corinthians 12:31b-13:13

By Jason Bird

Vitally important to the work of the church, spiritual gifts must be used in a spirit of love in order to be effective. Without love as a motivation, acts of service become meaningless and fruitless. For this reason Paul turns the attention of his readers to "the most excellent way."

The Emptiness of Love-less Religious Activity (13:1-3). Spiritual gifts were obviously present in Corinth, but love was visibly absent. Paul reminded the church that the most highly visible gifts in the church were worthless if not motivated by love of God and

love for fellow man. People may preach eloquent messages about the love of God, but unless love is evident to others, the preaching becomes nothing more than an incessant noise.

Someone has rightly said people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. Going through the routines of religious activity does not make the impact that being a tangible reminder to those around you of the love of God does. The religious leaders of Jesus's day concerned themselves more with keeping their religious traditions than in helping people to know God.



Bird

Unfortunately, many believers today do the same.

The Characteristics of Genuine Christian Love (13:4-7). Genuine Christian love concerns itself foremost with the welfare of others. Each of the characteristics listed here relate to the needs of someone else.

First of all, love is patient — literally, "long-tempered." An early church father said, "It is a word used of the man who is wronged and who has it easily in his power to avenge himself but will never do it."

Love is also kind. It is not passive, but actively seeks to do good to others. Believers should be characterized by their willingness to go the extra mile in helping a brother or sister in need.

Love does not envy what others have, but rather rejoices in the way God has blessed oth-

ers. Genuine love also realizes that everything one has is a gift from God and there is, therefore, no room for bragging and boasting.

A believer who practices genuine love will not speak or behave rudely to others. Unfortunately, many non-believers have a bad opinion of Christianity because they once witnessed someone who professed to be a believer behaving rudely. Genuine love puts the needs of other people first, does not "fly-off-the-handle" and quickly forgives AND forgets wrongs done by others.

Paul concludes his description of genuine love by stating that love always protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres. Believers should conduct an honest evaluation of their own lives to insure that their actions demonstrate the characteristics of genuine love.

The Permanence and Supremacy of Love (13:8-13).

The Corinthians needed a reminder that the spiritual gifts they so eagerly sought were only temporary. There will come a time when prophecy and knowledge will pass away. The gift of tongues was a temporary gift as a sign to unbelievers. But love is superior because love will never fail.

Paul uses a couple of illustrations to explain that our knowledge of God is limited on this earth. But a day will come when we will see our Saviour face to face. On that day, the fullness of the love of God will be evident to all believers. This love, given as a gift from God, surpasses faith and hope because it encompasses them. Love enables us to have faith in God and hope in the promises he has given his children. The knowledge of the power of love should motivate believers to demonstrate that love above all else.

Bird is pastor, 15th Avenue Church, Meridian.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

The perfect sacrifice

Hebrews 9:11-10:18

By Wayne VanHorn

We have examined Jesus' superiority to angels, his role as the captain of our salvation, and his role as High Priest. Today we look at the superiority of his sacrifice.

Superior Savior (Heb. 9:11-28). The writer of Hebrews purpose is to convince loyal followers of Judaism that Jesus Christ is superior in every way to the sacrificial system handed down to them by Moses. His primary methodology is to view the first system as a shadow of the real sacrifice through which God would once and for all deal with sin. Thus, "Christ appeared as a high priest of the

good things to come, he entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation" (9:11). His blood surpasses the blood of goats and calves and his redemption is eternal (9:12). These claims could never be matched by the old covenant. The work of Jesus, the superior Savior, results in a cleansed conscience that leads us to serve God (9:14).

Using the analogy of a last will and testament, the writer indicates that the will is not valid until a death has occurred. Jesus wills that people have access to the Father. His death



VanHorn

on the cross secured that access (9:15-22). In 9:23-28 the writer returns to his comparison of the temporal system, which is a "copy of the true one" (9:24). God abides in heaven and Christ has entered heaven on our behalf. No other high priest in Israel's history accomplished what Jesus has accomplished. He is superior in every way.

Inadequate Sacrifices (Heb. 10:1-4). Returning to the analogy of the first covenant as a shadow of the good things to come, the writer states the inadequacy of the old system. The Law can never make perfect those who draw near. If a person could keep the Law perfectly, he would still be imperfect in relationship to God. Only Christ can perfect our relationship with the Father. The need to continually repeat

the sacrifices served as proof that they were not permanent (10:2-3). The writer summarizes his point with regard to the inadequacy of the old sacrificial system by stating, "For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins (10:4).

Perfect Sacrifice (Heb. 10:5-10). If the sacrificial system is so inadequate with regard to removing sin and perfecting the worshipper, what hope is there? The writer of Hebrews turns his readers' attention to Jesus once more. He cites Psalm 40:6-8 to demonstrate how the coming of Christ served as a repudiation of the old system (10:5-7). In Heb. 10:8-9 he states his conclusion clearly, namely that, "He abolishes the first to establish the second" (10:9; NRSV). The second or perfect covenant sanctifies us through the sacrificial offering of Jesus' body. This sacrifice was "once for all" (10:10).

Complete Forgiveness (Heb. 10:11-14). The death of Christ represents God's eternal plan for the redemption of man. The old sacrificial system was not a "trial and error" attempt on God's part. The first covenant served as a type or copy of the perfect covenant. As the Apostle Paul so adequately expressed, "But when the fullness of time came, God sent forth his Son, . . ." (Gal. 4:4; NASB). Unlike the priests who daily offer the same sacrifices over and over again, Jesus offered himself once for all time and he now sits at the right hand of God (10:11-12). Jesus is now awaiting the complete subjugation of his enemies. They will serve as his footstool (10:13). During this time of subjugation, those who place their faith in Christ are perfected for all time (10:14).

VanHorn is pastor, First Church, Columbia.

LIFE AND WORK

When in need of protection

Psalms 91:1-16

By Geneva England

Sirens blasting with people running in chaos describes an all too familiar scene. Fear engulfs individuals and communities because of murders, domestic violence, earthquakes, uprisings, drive-by-shootings, etc. The "name-it-and-claim-it" preachers promising health, wealth, and prosperity in the name of religion further confuse our generation.

Will we escape these dangers because we love the Lord? The answer is, "No," because Satan is still alive, creating havoc and terror. However, the saved in Christ can find mental and spiritual rest in the Lord. Even if our journey on earth is shortened, our peace and joy come from

knowing assuredly that we will be with the Lord in eternity. Remember, Paul said to be absent from the body meant being present with the Lord.

Psalm 91 offers an insight into God's protective power.

The Refuge (91:1-2). First, protection is offered only to believers in fellowship with God. Notice verse 1, "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High"; verse 2, "my God in whom I trust"; and verse 9, "If you make the Most High your dwelling—even the Lord." (NIV)

Second, this comforting message was written specifically to Israel, God's chosen people, but to believers in general. God promises special protection to



England

those who follow his laws.

Today his elect children are assured of a refuge (a hiding place in God) and a fortress (defense) in the face of danger. God's shadow covers us like an umbrella, protecting us from the storms of life. Without him we would be buffeted about by the strong winds of adversity.

By trusting in Christ as our Savior and Lord, we feel an unsurpassed calm within our hearts and souls.

The Reassurance (91:3-8). The psalmist reassures the believer by using three real life illustrations. First, he names a fowler (professional bird catcher), who trained birds of prey to capture unsuspecting game. This pictures the Almighty rescuing believers, the victims, from the Devil's snares. Psalm 124:7 confirms this comparison: "Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowler; The snare is broken, and we are escaped."

Second, he mentions pestilence to portray real or imagined fears, such as night terrors and deadly diseases. All these threats lose their power before the mighty fortress of God. His faithfulness will be our shield.

The third example describes the protective wings (feathers) of a hen as she covers her young chicks to protect them from danger. A story is told of a great forest fire sweeping through a land. When the foresters assessed the damage, they came upon the charred remains of a fowl. Underneath, they found her unharmed chicks. This comparison likens us to such creatures as need protection beneath the sheltering wings of our divine Father.

The Rescue (91:9-13). When God completes our rescue, he will avenge all evil. While we await the return of our Lord, he has commanded his angels to guard us. Many accounts have been told of supernatural interventions, many of which

have been attributed to guardian angels.

Once, the protective hand of God mysteriously snatched me from an accident — one seemingly unavoidable. Praise God for this protection! Perhaps you have had a similar experience. It leaves us trembling at the awesomeness of our God!

The Result (91:14-16). When we experience the special providence of God, we are reminded that if we love him, he will rescue and protect us. God declares this intent six times in verses 14-16 by stating, "I will." These stem from two responses: first, "because he loves me," and second, "he will call upon me." God's promises are not for wealth and prosperity but for devotion and service.

We, like B.B. McKinney, rejoice in his song of confidence in our living Savior: "Have faith in God, he's on his throne — he watches o'er his own. He cannot fail."

England is a member of First Church, Grenada.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive
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ACCREDITED



Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

**APRIL 1, 1997-
APRIL 30, 1997**

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The list of churches committing to care for BCV children for one day is growing:

Artesia BC, Lowndes
Woodlawn BC, Warren
Conchatta BC, Newton
FBC Meridian, Lauderdale

If your church is planning to provide one or more day's care for children at The Baptist Children's Village, but have not notified us, please do so and we will add you to the list of 191 churches who have pledged to do so.



Board members pictured accepting their plaques in recognition of years of service to children through the ministry of The Baptist Children's Village are (from left to right): Jimmy Hollingsworth, 21 years; Guy Reedy, 48 years; and Fred Gaddis, 30 years. Also not pictured is Bob King who was given a plaque honoring his 29 years of service to children. These gentlemen were unable to attend the recognition dinner and received their awards at the quarterly board meeting.



BCV Staff and children have enjoyed a three-on-three basketball tournament this summer. Teams were made up of one staff member and two young people. After the final tournament game, "The Best" came out as the winning team. Additional team player awards will be awarded in the coming weeks.

Northeast BSU completes dual mission trips

Spring break always means "mission trip" for students of the Baptist Student Union (BSU) at Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville.

The only question is "where are we going to go this time?"



READY TO GO — Nicole Crum (left) of Kossuth and Laura Hines of Walnut, members of the Northeast Mississippi Community College Baptist Student Union, wait out the final few minutes before departing on a spring break mission trip to Sterling, Colo. (BR special photo)

This year the Northeast BSU sponsored two mission trips — to Sterling, Colo. and Panama City Beach, Fla.

Thirty-two students, the Northeast BSU director, and his eleven-year-old son drove the twenty-four hours it took to get to Sterling.

Eighteen students, along with the youth/music minister at Tishomingo Church, Tishomingo, headed in the opposite direction to Florida.

Stanton Felder, Director of Missions for Emmanuel Church, invited the group to come to Sterling. He and his family have been at Emmanuel for about seven months.

The Mississippi group stayed at Emmanuel Church and took showers at the gym at Northeastern Junior College in Sterling.

Bibliocipher

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OI POSP OSPO SZ ISK,
BIP OXJ OISK GOSP POI
NYXKXP NSXPO TZPH
POI LOTKLOIN.

KIEIBSPXHZ PGH:
PGIZPW-ZXZI

Clue: B equals L

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Titus Two Eleven.

The Northeast students became friends with some Northeastern students during the trip and happened to tell them how great the food was at their cafeteria.

The Northeastern students responded as all college students seem to do — they denied it. Some of the BSU students also noticed something else in their conversation with their Northeastern friends.

Many of them almost cried when the BSU students described the activities and fellowship of the Northeast BSU.

These students were part of a group called the Campus Christian Fellowship. They have a Bible study each Monday night with an average attendance of seven.

As the conversation continued, the BSU students realized how blessed they were to have a "going and growing BSU."

They agreed that Christians in the South take too much for granted.

When the week was over, twelve college students and two junior high students had prayed to receive Christ as Lord and Saviour!

The students had said that the long drive was worth it when the first student accepted Christ on Monday, but little did they realize how much more "worth it" it was going to be as the week progressed!

Lives were changed forever because they were willing to invest their time in a trip like this.

They would all agree that their lives have been changed, too. They cannot keep silent any more. They have discovered that just as they purposely shared the gospel in Colorado, they can share just as well in Mississippi.

On March 8, nineteen students from the Northeast BSU left for Panama City Beach.

Their mission: Join other Christians from college campuses across the nation to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to spring breakers at Panama City Beach.

How did they accomplish this? Each person on the trip attended six weeks of witness training where they learned how to witness in a multi-cultural environment.

With their training completed, they set out on a mission trip that would change their lives and the lives of others for eternity.

Four different ministries were employed to accomplish the purpose of the trip, which included a daily, free pancake breakfast, a coffee house, street/beach ministries, and free van rides.

Each ministry was effective, and no ministry was more important than the other. Students were divided into teams, and were scheduled to

do certain ministries at certain times.

The pancake breakfast provided more than just physical food. While it saved over 3,000 students money, they were also fed spiritually.

The coffee house was an important ministry, in that it brought people into a more relaxed environment, where relationships were more easily built.

It was the kind of place where one could sit, drink a little coffee and eat a little cake, and meet new people while being entertained.

Entertainment ranged from drama and mime, to soloists and live bands. It was all good, because it allowed the

opportunity to spread God's love through building relationships with the people who were there.

Street/beach outreach and van rides were the most used of all the ministries. Mission trippers flooded the streets and beaches of the city, handing out little green cards which told of the van rides, breakfast, and coffee house

If the opportunity arose, they would witness to the people with which they were talking.

T.J., who came with the group from the Northeast BSU, led a young man to Christ on the back seat of one of the vans.

Many more came to know Jesus through street and van ministries.

Rising from the ashes



Larry Taylor (above photo, left) and Bill Loftice, both members of Northlake Church, Garland, Texas, trim roofing underlayment for the new Beacon Mission facility in Yazoo City. David Raddin (below), pastor of First Church, Yazoo City, helps unload building materials for Beacon Mission. The Southern Baptist mission to the local African-American community, pastored by Charles Thomas, was destroyed by arson in 1996. Please see article on page 3. (Above photo by William H. Perkins Jr. Below photo by Vernon Sikes; used by permission of "The Yazoo Herald.")

